



# Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Manager's Report



Volume 3, Number 6

A report for the Sanctuary Advisory Council and Sanctuary Constituents

Reporting period: November 5 to December 30, 2005

## ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1980, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary) consists of an area off the coast of California of approximately 1,252.5 square nautical miles adjacent to the following islands and offshore rocks: San Miguel Island, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Rosa Island, Anacapa Island, Santa Barbara Island, Richardson Rock, and Castle Rock, extending seaward to a distance of six nautical miles. The islands vary in distance from 12 to 40 nautical miles offshore from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in southern California.

A fertile combination of warm and cool currents in this area results in a great variety of plants and animals including kelp forests, fish and invertebrates, pinnipeds, cetaceans and sea birds. The sanctuary also has a wealth of maritime heritage resources including Chumash Native American artifacts and over 100 historic shipwrecks. Human uses in the area include commercial and recreational fishing, marine wildlife viewing, boating, diving, kayaking, maritime shipping, nearby offshore oil and gas development, research and monitoring, and numerous educational activities.

based upon expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying. Additional considerations include availability and commitment to active participation, community and professional affiliations, views regarding the conservation and management of marine resources, and the length of residence in the area affected by the sanctuary. Application packages are available on the sanctuary web site at <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/news.html>, or can be obtained by contacting Jacklyn Kelly at (805) 966-7107, ext. 371 or [jacklyn.kelly@noaa.gov](mailto:jacklyn.kelly@noaa.gov). Completed applications are due by February 14, 2006 and should be either emailed to [jacklyn.kelly@noaa.gov](mailto:jacklyn.kelly@noaa.gov), faxed to 805-568-1582, or mailed to CINMS, 113 Harbor Way, Suite 150, Santa Barbara, CA 93109.

## SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

### *2005 Service Hours*

In 2005 the Sanctuary Advisory Council (Advisory Council) contributed 1,121 hours of service to the sanctuary! This volunteer service, comprised of time spent at Advisory Council and Working Group meetings, provides vital assistance to Sanctuary management and staff. The sanctuary greatly appreciates the efforts of Advisory Council representatives and other sanctuary volunteers.

### *Chumash and Education Seat Turnover*

CINMS is pleased to congratulate Paulette Cabugos as the newly appointed member for the Chumash Community seat on the Advisory Council, and Barbara LaCorte as the Advisory Council's Education seat member. As returning Advisory Council representatives that have previously served as alternates, both Cabugos and LaCorte bring important experience and dedication to these Council positions. CINMS also welcomes Dan Powell to the Advisory Council as the Education seat alternate. The Chumash Community seat alternate position is still undergoing review but is expected to be filled soon.

### *Tourism and Recreational Fishing Seats Now Recruiting*

CINMS is seeking applicants to fill three open positions on the Advisory Council: Tourism alternate, Recreational Fishing member, and Recreational Fishing alternate. Members and alternates serve as volunteers for two-year terms. Advisory Council representatives will be selected

## Window on the Sanctuary

Jackie Buhl, former CINMS Research Assistant, volunteers at an orphanage in Peru where she teaches a two-week course on oceans and ocean critters featuring the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Photo: Jackie Buhl.



## MARITIME HERITAGE PROGRAM

### Education and Outreach

#### *Watson A. West*

Amy Cale, CINMS Web Developer, and Robert Schwemmer, CINMS Maritime Heritage Resource Coordinator, recently completed an online history of the 4-masted schooner *Watson A. West*, lost off San Miguel Island in February, 1923. The lumber schooner was carrying 800,000 board feet of lumber from Gray's



The four-masted lumber schooner *Watson A. West*.



Captain Sorensen aboard the *Watson A. West*.

Harbor, Washington to San Pedro, California when the

vessel struck the west end of the island, breaking apart immediately. Captain Ludwig M. W. Sorensen had only time to secure a chart, chronometers, and a compass during the hasty evacuation. The crew scrambled into the ship's boat and rowed for the next eighteen hours, finally reaching Santa Barbara. The wreckage of the *Watson A. West* has not yet been located, although it is somewhere near Point Bennett.

For more information about the *Watson A. West* please visit:  
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/cr/watsonawest.html>.

#### *Honda Point Naval Disaster*

Schwemmer delivered the eulogy for Gene Bruce, the last known survivor of the Honda Point Naval Disaster. At age 16 Gene Bruce served as Seaman Second Class aboard the naval destroyer *USS Chauncey DD 296* when his ship went aground at Honda Point along with eight other destroyers on September 8, 1923. Schwemmer first met Mr. Bruce in 1998 at the 75<sup>th</sup> Honda memorial at Vandenberg Air Force Base where Honda Point is located. Their second meeting was on December 6, 2000 during a presentation Schwemmer gave on the history of the disaster at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. Gene Bruce died on December 6, 2005 on the anniversary of that lecture. The Honda Point Naval disaster is on record as the United States Navy's worst peacetime disaster, with the deaths of 23 sailors, and the total loss of seven destroyers valued at 13 million dollars. For more information about the Point Honda Memorial visit:

<http://www.pointhondamemorial.org/>. For information about the Gene Bruce Memorial visit: <http://www.pointhondamemorial.org/survivor.htm>.

#### *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Geographic Society Web Site*

Schwemmer and renowned photographer Kip Evans continue to work on web based videos and curriculum for the NOAA and National Geographic Society web site. The two to three minute videos are being produced to help highlight the NMSP in classrooms throughout the United States. The videos and curriculum will highlight CINMS shipwrecks.



Robert Schwemmer provided a eulogy for Mr. Gene Bruce in December, 2005.

### *America's Underwater Treasures*

Schwemmer documented the Ocean Futures Society film team aboard the R/V *Shearwater* during the filming of their production titled *America's Underwater Treasures*, featuring the National Marine Sanctuary System. This segment of the production featured Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) divers conducting surveys off Anacapa Island. Part of the day's shooting schedule included interviews with PISCO scientist Jenn Casselle, and Jean-Michel Cousteau's son Fabien. The surface shots aboard the R/V *Shearwater* were directed and filmed by Bob Talbot. The production team working from the vessel *Condor Express* filmed several locations at the Channel Islands, included San Miguel Island. For more information about the Ocean Futures Society visit <http://www.oceanfutures.org/>. To learn about PISCO visit <http://www.piscoweb.org/>.



Filming *America's Underwater Treasures* aboard the R/V *Shearwater*. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.

### Resource Protection

#### *Shipwreck Reconnaissance Expedition*

A five-day shipwreck reconnaissance expedition was completed at the Channel Islands aboard the National Park's R/V *Pacific Ranger* from November 14-18. Expedition team members included divers from the Channel Islands National Park and Coastal Maritime Archaeology Resources (CMAR). The team mapped additional archaeological features of the three-masted, full-rigged sailing ship *Aggi*, lost in 1915 off Santa Rosa Island. The shipwreck reconnaissance program at the Channel Islands has been an ongoing collaboration between the sanctuary, National Park Service, CMAR, and the State of California for nearly 25 years.



Fabien Cousteau and Jenn Casselle aboard the R/V *Shearwater*. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.

Visit these web sites to learn more about the Shipwreck Aggi:

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/aggi.html>  
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/aggi1.html>

### Regional Maritime Heritage Program

Scott Kathey of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary requested that Schwemmer conduct research on a mystery barge reported by technical divers in 300 feet of water off Point Pinos. The shipwreck turned out to be the dredge *Art Riedel Sr.*, formerly the World War II era U.S. Navy barge *BD 1066*, later renamed *H. W. McCurdy*. The dredge's history included operations in Alaska and the South Pacific, where it extended an island that was being utilized during the Cold War to track missiles from Vandenberg Air Force Base, as well as Russian missiles. During its reconstruction in 1950, the hydraulic diesel-electric dredge was the largest commercial vessel built in Puget Sound. The Riedel was lost during a storm off Point Pinos in 1990.

Schwemmer has been conducting research on shipwrecks in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and locating graphics to be utilized by Amy Cale in development of an informational kiosk. The shipwrecks include the California Gold Rush steamer *S. S. Lewis*, clipper ship *Noonday*, pilot boat *Bonita*, and sailing ship *Lucas*.

For information about these shipwrecks visit:

*S. S. Lewis* <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/gfmns/sslewis.html>  
*Noonday* <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/gfmns/noonday.html>  
*Lucas* <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/gfmns/lucas.html>



## National Maritime Heritage Program

The National Maritime Heritage Program recently launched its new web site that features the archaeological and cultural programs at CINMS, and other National Maritime Heritage Program expeditions conducted at other national marine sanctuaries. To learn more visit the National Maritime Heritage Program web site at:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/maritime/>.

## EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER, AND OUTREACH

### Special Events

#### *2006 From Shore To Sea Lecture Series*

The 2006 From Shore To Sea Lecture Series will begin January 10 and 11. The featured speaker for January is Lotus Vermeer with The Nature Conservancy. She will be discussing Santa Cruz Island Recovery efforts.

Each month the lecture series features different experts in the cultural and natural history, island ecology, geology, and biology of the Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Channel. The monthly programs are free and open to the public and take place at 7PM, with the

Tuesday date in Santa Barbara at the Chase Palm Park Building (236 E. Cabrillo Blvd.), and the Wednesday date in Ventura at the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura Harbor). For more information visit: [www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/calendar.html](http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/calendar.html). The schedule of speakers is posted in the box (above). Please check the web site for more information and future postings about May through December lectures.

#### *2006 JASON Expedition: Mysteries of Earth to Mars*

The 2006 JASON Expedition: *Mysteries of Earth to Mars* is scheduled January 30 through February 3 at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum and Ventura Unified School District Auditorium. The sanctuary will be featuring an activity at both venues that highlights technologies used to explore and study the deeper regions of our oceans. Students will simulate an underwater dive aboard the *Delta* submersible, and record marine organisms of a deepwater reef off Cordell Bank.

Students will also have a chance to learn about the different technologies used in Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV). ROVs built by students from Cabrillo High School Aquarium will be featured. For more information about the Jason Project and the 2006 Jason expedition go to: <http://www.jason.org/>. You can also visit the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum website (<http://www.sbmm.org/>) for information on their Jason schedule.

#### *Cabrillo High School ROV Field Trip*

On January 11, students from Cabrillo High School will be heading out to the Channel Islands aboard the R/V *Shearwater* to test their ROVs in an ocean environment. Students will compare their ROVs to a SEABOTIX ROV. Activities include simulating an underwater transect using the SEABOTIX ROV.

### 2006 From Shore to Sea Lecture Series

#### Recent and Upcoming Lectures

Dates	Speaker(s)
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Jan. 10, 11	Lotus Vermeer, The Nature Conservancy, Santa Cruz Island Recovery
Feb. 14, 15	Betsy Lester Roberti, Growing up on San Miguel Island
Mar. 14, 15	Greg Sanders, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southern Sea Otter Translocation Status
Apr. 11, 12	Josh Adams, U.S. Geological Survey, Seabirds of the Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Channel

#### *Santa Barbara Lectures (Tuesdays)*

7 pm at Chase Palm Park Center, 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara

#### *Ventura Lectures (Wednesdays)*

7 pm at Channel Islands National Park, Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura

**More information including speaker topics and the May through December lecture schedule will be posted at:**

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/calendar.html>



Cabrillo High School students prepare an ROV prototype for deployment from the R/V *Shearwater* in October 2003.

## Workshops

### *Geographic Information System (GIS) Workshop for Curriculum Developers and Professional Development Providers*

Laura Francis, CINMS Education Coordinator, will participate in a GIS developers workshop in Evanston, Illinois from January 21-23. The GEODE Initiative at Northwestern University is hosting the workshop for curriculum developers and professional development providers using My World GIS. My World GIS has been developed through a research effort funded by the National Science Foundation to provide educators with GIS software designed specifically for use in educational settings from middle school through college. My World GIS offers the features of a professional GIS through a user-friendly interface that provides support for learners and teachers. In addition, it has been built to be compatible with school computing infrastructures. The design of My World GIS has been informed by more than a decade of classroom and laboratory research and input from experienced GIS educators. The goal of this workshop is to bring together individuals who are interested in developing GIS-based activities, data libraries, or professional development using My World GIS.

## Meetings

### *UC Santa Barbara/CINMS Ocean Science Building*

An "eco-charrette" for the joint University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) / CINMS Ocean Science Education Building was held on January 4th. The "eco-charrette" is a collaborative process for design professionals and their clients to create goals for environmental sustainability and energy efficiency, and to identify strategies to accomplish those goals. Laura Francis, Todd Jacobs (CINMS Assistant Manager), representatives of Eskew, Dumez + Ripple Architects, Thinc Design, and representatives from UCSB participated in this meeting. The next building committee meeting is scheduled for January 19th. On January 20<sup>th</sup> a stakeholder workshop will be held for invited participants from the marine education community to learn more about plans for the Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science (OCTOS), and to solicit their ideas for exhibits and programming.

### *Channel Islands Telepresence Meeting*

Julie Bursek, CINMS Education Coordinator, and Claire Johnson, NMSP West Coast Education Liaison, participated in a Channel Islands Telepresence update meeting at the Channel Islands National Park on Wednesday, December 7. Representatives from the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools office and the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum were also in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to prioritize 2006 telepresence programming opportunities. CINMS will be submitting a request for telepresence program funding to support a demo project in spring 2006 that will test using the *JASON XIV From Shore To Sea* curriculum with the Anacapa Island live underwater dive program.

## Educational Grants

### *Bay-Watershed Education and Training Program (B-WET)*

The National Marine Sanctuary Program's B-WET Program announces that up to \$350,000 in funds may be available to implement environmental education projects in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in the following two priority areas: 1) Meaningful Outdoor Experience; and 2) Professional Development in the area of Environmental Education for Teachers. A full funding opportunity announcement has been posted at the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) web site, and a press release is attached. The funding represents a federally supported environmental education grant program focused solely on the Santa Barbara Channel watershed (including the counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura).

Funding is available to (K-12) public and independent schools and school systems, institutions of higher education, commercial and nonprofit organizations, state or local government agencies, and Indian tribal governments.

There will be a workshop on January 20, from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM to provide an introduction/orientation to the B-WET program. The workshop will be held at the Casa Las Palmas (323 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, California), following the Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting in the same location. Please share this information with individuals who may be

interested in this opportunity.

For more information contact Seaberry Nachbar, B-WET Program Manager, at [seaberry.nachbar@noaa.gov](mailto:seaberry.nachbar@noaa.gov), or 831-647-4204. For more information about the B-WET program please visit <http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/BWET/>. For more information on the application process and to download a grant application visit <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=7459>.

## Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) Volunteer Program

### *November and December Whale Watch Vessel Excursions*

CINC volunteers offered interpretation to passengers on the *Condor Express* out of Santa Barbara Harbor five times per week during the month of November. These trips were billed as wildlife excursions, focusing on dolphins and pinnipeds. As of December 26, the *Condor Express* and Island Packers (out of Ventura Harbor) began their gray whale trips into the Santa Barbara Channel and the CINC volunteers are on board as interpreters. The new year for the CINC has begun!



The gray whale southern migration generally occurs from December through February. Photo: CINMS.

### *November and December Island Programs*

Six volunteers conducted nine formal interpretive hikes on Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands during November, and seven volunteers conducted seven hikes during December, traveling with Island Packers out of Ventura Harbor. As of November, Island Packers trips have been curtailed to Santa Cruz Island at Scorpion Anchorage, due to the hunt for non-native pigs that is ongoing at the east end of the island through March 2006.

### *CINC Member Recruitment and Applicant Orientation Sessions*

On November 15 and 17 there were evening orientation sessions to recruit new volunteers into the CINC program. The meetings were held in Santa Barbara and Ventura, respectively. Shauna Bingham, CINMS Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, gave an overview of the NMSP and CINMS, and also gave a detailed description of the CINC. Derek Lohuis spoke about the National Park Service and Channel Islands National Park, as well as the island hike program. Professional photographer Eric Zimmerman gave a slide show about what folks might expect to see on whale watch excursions or on island hikes. On December 2, 41 new volunteer trainees were accepted into the CINC program, joining 76 returning volunteers, bringing the total number of volunteers to 117.

### *Training*

11/19/05 Training Trip to Anacapa Island: Saturday, 11/19, Larry Ballard, a seasoned naturalist who is not a member of the CINC, led a training trip on Anacapa Island, where 32 new and returning island hike volunteers learned to identify birds, plants, and insects. The R/V *Shearwater* made the journey, departing from Santa Barbara Harbor.

12/15/05 Mentor Training Meeting: Thursday, 12/15, nine of the twelve mentors for the new CINC volunteer trainees met with Shauna Bingham and Clare Fritzsche, CINC Volunteer Administrative Assistant, at the Ventura County Field Office to review the new CINC Mentor Manual. Mentors were assigned to "pods" of trainees; some pods will have two co-mentors. Mentors guide the trainees through the training process and remain in contact with their pods throughout the year, offering invaluable insight into the role of being a naturalist.

2006 Training schedule for new CINC volunteers: Training for new volunteers will begin January 10th and run through February 4th, when there will be graduation and a potluck lunch. The complete 2006 training schedule is provided on the following page. All Advisory Council members are welcome to attend these informative, standing-room-only lectures.

2006 CHANNEL ISLANDS NATURALIST CORPS TRAINING SCHEDULE			
DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION
Tuesday, Jan 10 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	WELCOME! Volunteer Training Packet CINMS and CINP Agency Overview	Shauna Bingham, Derek Lohuis, & Clare Fritzsche	CINP Visitor Center 1901 Spinnaker Drive VENTURA
Thursday, Jan 12 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Pinnipeds / Seals and Sea Lions	Peter Howorth, Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center	CINP Visitor Center VENTURA
Tuesday, Jan 17 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Whale Watch Procedures for Santa Barbara County Vessels  Oceanographic Context of the SCB and the SB Channel	Vessel Captains and Crew  Dr. Libe Washburn, UCSB ICESS	Chase Palm Park Building 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd. SANTA BARBARA
Thursday, Jan 19 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Interpretation Techniques	Yvonne Menard, CINP	CINP Visitor Center VENTURA
Tuesday, Jan 24 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Introduction to the Geology of Santa Barbara and Channel Islands	Dr. Tanya Atwater, UCSB	Chase Palm Park Building SANTA BARBARA
Thursday, Jan 26 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Introduction to Marine Mammals/ Whales, Dolphins, & Porpoises	Dr. Charles Rennie, III, Curator Emeritus Vertebrate Zoology, SBMNH	CINP Visitor Center VENTURA
Tuesday, Jan 31 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Channel Islands Archeology and Chumash Ethnohistory	Dr. John Johnson, Curator of Anthropology, SBMNH	Chase Palm Park Building SANTA BARBARA
Thursday, Feb 2 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Whale Watch Boat Procedures for Ventura County Vessels Outreach Orientation Pod meetings with mentors NATURALIST EXAM	Vessel Captains and Crew  Shauna Bingham	CINP Visitor Center VENTURA
Saturday, Feb 4 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Correcting the Exam with Mentors Graduation Potluck Lunch Whale Watch Sign-ups Uniform/Nametag Distribution	Mentor Pod Presentations	CINP Visitor Center VENTURA

## Public Outreach

### *12/3/05, Shearwater trip for Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens Board of Directors*

On December 3, Kathy Van Slyke, CINC volunteer, represented CINMS and Channel Islands National Park as the naturalist aboard the R/V *Shearwater* when it hosted the board of directors from the Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens. She offered informal interpretation while in the Santa Barbara Channel, and then led a formal hike at Prisoners Harbor





along the Pelican trail on Santa Cruz Island. Chris Mobley, CINMS Manager, augmented her presentation by answering questions from the visitors.

#### *12/10/05, Conservation to the Public workshop*

On December 10, Debra Herring, CINC volunteer, represented CINMS and Channel Islands National Park at a "Conservation to the Public: Strategies for Getting the Message Out There" workshop, hosted by the American Cetacean Society and Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation. The purpose of the workshop, held in San Diego, California, was to bring educators affiliated with marine mammal viewing platforms together to share strategies for educating passengers about conservation; identify themes, messages, and best practices that could be used aboard various marine mammal-viewing platforms; and to discuss ideas and approaches to educating passengers aboard whale or dolphin watching boats or from land-based facilities.

### **Ventura County Field Office Update**

Shauna Bingham will return full-time from maternity leave in January. Congratulations and welcome back Shauna! As of December, Clare Fritzsche began working out of the Santa Barbara Harbor office several days each month, providing local contact with the CINC volunteers in Santa Barbara.

## **RESEARCH AND MONITORING**

### **Research and Monitoring Activities**

#### *Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO)*

PISCO scientists conducted research and monitoring on board the R/V *Shearwater* from November 7 through 12. PISCO is a large-scale marine research program that focuses on understanding the nearshore ecosystems of the U.S. West Coast, and has been a crucial part of the marine reserves monitoring program in the sanctuary for several years. Researchers monitor species abundance and oceanographic conditions both inside and outside marine reserves. Learn more about PISCO at: <http://www.piscoweb.org/>.

#### *Aquarium of the Pacific*

Researchers and volunteers from the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific, in partnership with UCSB and CINMS, were on board the R/V *Shearwater* December 4-10 testing a pilot project that engages citizen volunteer divers in monitoring the efficacy of marine reserves. Over the seven day cruise, researchers and volunteers visited Anacapa, Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa islands, both inside and outside marine reserves, to test different methods of monitoring species and habitats. Volunteers tested methods including habitat mapping using a video sled, video bait stations, and daytime and nocturnal quadrat sampling of invertebrates. Researchers were able to determine ways to improve their protocols and were able to identify future research sites. They were especially pleased with the mild December weather and look forward to making some final assessments of their program in 2006.

#### *Plumes & Blooms*

On December 13, 2005, Plumes and Blooms (PnB) completed its 9<sup>th</sup> year of optical data collection. PnB cruises are conducted on board the R/V *Shearwater* approximately every three weeks and data are collected along a seven-station transect from Santa Rosa platform to Goleta Point. The main goal of the PnB Project is to develop and optimize algorithms that will be used to relate the measurements taken from satellites to *in-situ* ocean properties like chlorophyll content and organic and inorganic particles. Each PnB cruise measures physical characteristics of the water including parameters that describe color and light in the water as well as temperature, pressure, and density, among many others. The novelty this year has been the initiation of aerosol optical thickness observations along with the traditional PnB sampling program to assess the influence of the amount of aerosols on ocean color modeling. The PnB data set has been extensively used in papers and publications and has enabled several graduate students to complete advanced degrees. For more information about this project visit the Plumes and Blooms web site: <http://www.icess.ucsb.edu/PnB/PnB.html>.





### ***CHANNEL ISLANDS: STORIES FROM THE PAST***

One hundred and eleven years ago this month The Los Angeles Times featured a story titled "The Islands of The Sea" that featured descriptions of each of the eight Channel Islands. The newspaper article opens with the following description. "The group or chain of islands lying off the west coast of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties is commonly known and broadly designated in the United States government reports as the 'Santa Barbara Channel Islands' though that designation, in a narrower sense, is perhaps more strictly applicable only to such of the islands as lie between Point Hueneme and Point Conception, making the narrowest part of the channel about seventy-two miles in length.

The important climatic effect exerted by this chain of islands is understood by old residents and intelligent students of the geography, typography and meteorology of the lower coast; but only a very limited few of the now residents and new-comers, have any precise knowledge of the many interesting features possessed by these islands. Fewer still have any accurate ideas of the causes give which to these islands and to this southern part of California the mild and temperate climate they enjoy, sheltered from the cold and violent winds of the north. These things and many others of an equally interesting character are laid down in the reports of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey."



For the full article, available as a PDF file, contact [Sarah.MacWilliams@noaa.gov](mailto:Sarah.MacWilliams@noaa.gov).

Photo: Coast & Geodetic Survey team conducting leveling operations at Anacapa Island by carrying elevation from bench mark up vertical cliff. Image from the NOAA Library Collection, circa 1951.

### **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Update**

The NOAA / National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Altair Unmanned Aerial System Demonstration Project completed a mission over the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary) on November 16. The principal flight objectives were mapping and surveillance activities using the Digital Camera System and electro-optical/infrared skyball payload components. All payload instruments operated successfully throughout the flight. The Digital Camera System mapped four straight-line coastal segments on the south sides of Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands. Altair operated in and near a pre-determined set of seven areas within the CINMS. Large commercial ships were spotted and successfully identified by vessel type from up to ten miles away using the infrared and spotting capabilities of the skyball. NOAA is testing this technology to determine if it is a viable low cost enforcement and research platform.

### **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

At the last report to the Advisory Council in November, CINMS staff reported that work has been completed on addressing all NOAA attorney edits on the draft management plan/draft environmental impact statement (DMP/DEIS). All comments have been incorporated, or otherwise addressed, and NOAA's General Counsel for Ocean Services approved the entire package. In December, the National Ocean Service granted approval for the DMP/DEIS to be forwarded to final clearance checkpoints within NOAA and the Department of Commerce. Those reviews are still in progress. At this stage CINMS staff are still hoping for final NOAA and Department of Commerce clearance to be granted this winter, but cannot predict with certainty if and when that will occur. Thus, dates for public hearings have not yet been set, but plans call for holding one hearing in Ventura and one in Santa Barbara, in addition to two Advisory Council meetings that will focus on understanding and commenting on the DMP/DEIS.

As a reminder, at the September 23rd Advisory Council meeting staff provided an overview of the management plan revision process and DMP/DEIS documents. The overview included explanations of: the project's status, summary of proposed Action Plans, summary of proposed regulatory changes, next steps in the process, and discussion of the role of the Advisory Council and Working Groups during the public comment period. Notes from this presentation are available here:

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/minutes.html>.

## Biogeography Study

The biogeography study, *Biogeographic Assessment of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Surrounding Areas*, is now complete and the final report has been sent to the printers. Advisory Council members will receive notice when the final report arrives, which will be available by web site download or by request in CD-ROM or hard copy format. For a summary of the study and its findings, refer to the Biogeography Team's presentation that was provided at the May 20th Advisory Council meeting, available here:

[http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/ecosystems/sanctuaries/chanisl\\_nms.html](http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/ecosystems/sanctuaries/chanisl_nms.html).

## RESOURCE PROTECTION

### Marine Reserves Process

#### *Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) Response to the Request for Draft Fishing Regulations*

The PFMC elected to not forward any proposed fishing regulations for the CINMS under the regulatory authority of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Instead, the PFMC passed a motion to develop regulations that achieve the stated goals and objectives of the CINMS under the aggregate of the various PFMC Magnuson-Stevens Act fishery management plan authorities and complementary state laws. A progress report is scheduled for the March 2006 PFMC meeting in Seattle, Washington.

#### *Development of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Federal Marine Reserves*

Sanctuary staff continue to develop a draft EIS for marine reserves in CINMS. Release of the DEIS for public review is expected in spring of 2006.

### Vessel Grounding

On or about Nov. 19, 2005, the F/V *Charger*, a charter vessel carrying a group of divers, grounded near the Southeast anchorage of Bechers Bay, Santa Rosa Island. The grounding resulted in a complete loss of the vessel. Fortunately, there were no major injuries reported. NOAA and the National Park Service continue to work with the responsible party and salvors toward a complete clean-up of the wreckage. NOAA and Channel Islands National Park staff plan on conducting a natural resources damages assessment.

## VESSEL AND AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

### Aircraft Maintenance and Operations

During the current reporting period the CINMS flight crew was only able to complete one flight due to poor weather conditions and aircraft maintenance. The flight focused on marine reserves monitoring. Weather permitting, regular aerial monitoring flights will resume in January.

#### *Sanctuary Pilot featured in Sanctuary Watch Newsletter*

Lt. Julie Helmers, CINMS Pilot, was featured in a special Fall 2005 issue of the NMSP Publication *Sanctuary Watch*, which focused on ocean careers. The article about Lt. Helmers covers her experiences working as a pilot for both the NOAA Corps and the Navy. This issue of *Sanctuary Watch* also features articles about other people who are making a difference in the ocean environment through the following careers: Navy diver, photographer, fisherman, marine



Read about CINMS Pilot Lt. Julie Helmers' exciting career in *Sanctuary Watch*!

archaeologist, ocean conservation advocate, ocean educator, and ocean explorer. To view and download issues of Sanctuary Watch, or to sign up as a subscriber, please visit: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/news/sw/welcome.html>.

## WEB SITE (<http://channelislands.noaa.gov>)

### Recent Updates

Visit the web pages listed below to see recently updated sections of the CINMS web site.

Stay tuned for the R/V *Shearwater* 2006 vessel schedule available for viewing at: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/res/calendar/2006.html>.

The Research section of our web site now hosts the 2004 Research Summary report at: [http://channelislands.noaa.gov/res/cinms\\_res.html](http://channelislands.noaa.gov/res/cinms_res.html).

What's new with Research and Monitoring? Check out [http://channelislands.noaa.gov/res/cinms\\_res.html](http://channelislands.noaa.gov/res/cinms_res.html).

Don't forget to check out our calendar of events to find out what's happening locally: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/calendar.html>.

### New Features

In addition to weekly updates, an educational Marine Reserves "mini-site" is in the final stages of development and will be available February 1st at: [http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/mr\\_education.html](http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/mr_education.html). The Maritime Heritage West Coast Shipwreck Database will be undergoing a re-structure January 31, 2006 to offer dynamic, user-friendly navigation throughout the site. We will be hosting Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) information within the education section, which is on deck for January 2006.

*Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Comments and suggestions can be sent to [amy.cale@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.cale@noaa.gov).*



## NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM (NMSP) NEWS



### Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management Capacity Building Pilot Project, Nha Trang, Vietnam

From December 1-18th 2005, Anne Walton and Laura Francis coordinated the first Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management Capacity Building pilot project in Nha Trang, Vietnam. The purpose of the training was to provide management skills, content, and a framework for support of a developing MPA network in the South China Sea region. Thirty-five MPA practitioners from Cambodia, Vietnam, and China participated in the training. The South China Sea region was selected from nine regional candidate sites for the first pilot project due to the strong existing partnership between NOAA, IUCN (The World Conservation Union) and the Ministry of Fisheries. The MPA Capacity Building Training was a partnership between NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, Coastal Services Center, and International Program Office with IUCN-Vietnam, the Vietnam Ministry of Fisheries, Conservation International, WWF, Danida, and the U.S. Embassy. Nha Trang was selected as the host city as it is the site of the first fully implemented MPA in a network of fifteen MPAs in Vietnam and it will be the location for a national management capacity training center in Vietnam.



An international team of 11 trainers from Australia, Philippines, and United States, conducted 14 days of management capacity training for the 35 participants; and four additional days of mentorship training for eight representatives, who were selected by their respective MPAs in Cambodia, Vietnam and China for showing exceptional leadership potential. National Marine Sanctuary staff tailored the curriculum to the needs of the region, covering eight topical areas during the two weeks of training including subjects such as zonal management, community-based management and management planning. The training is designed to include a year-long follow-up program whereby support will be provided by the partnership to ensure implementation of lessons learned and provide advanced training opportunities for participants.



Vietnam MPA Management Capacity Building project participants. Photo courtesy Laura Francis.

### **2005 Department of Commerce Gold Medal Awards**

The Secretary of Commerce grants the Department of Commerce Gold Medal Awards, the Department's highest honorary awards, for superior performance and outstanding contributions to the Department. For her outstanding work in support of NOAA and the Department of Commerce's critical objectives the NMSP's Dr. Holly Price was selected by the Secretary to receive a Gold Medal Award for Leadership. Dr. Price is being honored for the development and implementation of the Agriculture and Rural Lands Water Quality Action Plan for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Congratulations to Dr. Price!

### **The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Celebrates 15 Years**

On November 12, the NMSP and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary with a gala dinner at Casa Antigua in Key West, Florida. During the celebration the Foundation will honor Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen for her leadership and support for important ocean issues relevant to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The Foundation will premiere a 30-second public service announcement (PSA) for the South Florida region focused on the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center's sea star campaign.

### **New Plan Addresses Social Issues that Affect Oceans**

A Social Science Team from the National Ocean Service has completed a new Social Science Plan. The plan aims to develop a better understanding of ocean science by acknowledging society's impact on it and its effect on society. The plan describes social science projects currently underway in NOAA, and a vision for a cohesive set of social science activities that support NOAA's missions. The plan is available at <http://marineeconomics.noaa.gov/ssp/plan.html>.

### **NOAA Contributes to the Publication of Three North American Conservation Action Plans**

Several NOAA and NOS offices are working with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to develop Conservation Action Plans that can be applied across Canada, Mexico, and the United States. In December, species conservation plans were published for three marine migratory species: humpback whales, pink-footed shearwater, and leatherback turtle. This is the first trilateral conservation plan ever developed for North American wildlife species. CEC is the post- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) environmental agreement between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. To view the Conservation Action Plans, please visit: [www.cec.org](http://www.cec.org).

### **Fisheries Education Project First Meeting Held**

The Fisheries Education Project held its first advisory council meeting in December with representatives from the NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training Program (B-WET), Friends of Moss Landing, the Monterey County Board of Education, and the Maritime Museum of Monterey. This pilot program brings together fishermen, educators, resource managers, and scientists to develop curricula and activities focused on fisheries, fishing, and fish, and will ultimately help educate students about Monterey Bay's cultural heritage. A series of regional focus groups and workshops will take place throughout the winter and spring.



## MPA Center Hosts Two Public Dialogue Meetings for West Coast Region

The MPA Center held two public meetings in December to answer questions, and gather views on the effort to develop a national system of MPAs. Approximately 70 representatives of coastal states and counties, tribes, federal agencies, recreational and commercial fisheries, sport divers, conservation organizations, academic institutions, and other groups provided their perspectives on MPAs. Issues discussed included regional marine resources, tribal MPA consultations, uses, and insights on how a national system could benefit the west coast region. These meetings were part of a series of regional dialogues to gather input in developing the framework for the national system of MPAs.

## The NMSP Launches New Law Enforcement Vessel

The NMSP's new 57-foot law enforcement vessel, *Peter Gladding*, was launched on December 14, 2005 in Bellingham, Washington. The *Peter Gladding* will begin law enforcement efforts in the lower Florida Keys in late February.

## THREE-MONTH CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY CALENDAR

<b>JANUARY</b>	
Jan 10, 11	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Lotus Vermeer, The Nature Conservancy <i>Santa Cruz Island Recovery</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Chase Palm Park Center, 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)
Jan 20	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> Casa Las Palmas (323 E. Cabrillo Blvd. in Santa Barbara) An agenda, directions and more information will be posted at: <a href="http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html">www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html</a>
Jan 20	<i>Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program Workshop</i> 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM at the Casa Las Palmas (323 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, California) For more information contact <a href="mailto:seaberry.nachbar@noaa.gov">seaberry.nachbar@noaa.gov</a> , or 831-647-4204 or visit <a href="http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/BWET">http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/BWET</a> .
Jan 20	<i>Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science (OCTOS) Stakeholder Workshop</i> For invited participants from the marine education community
Jan 30 - Feb 3	<i>2006 JASON Expedition: Mysteries of Earth to Mars</i> Santa Barbara Maritime Museum and Ventura Unified School District Auditorium For more information: (Santa Barbara) visit <a href="http://www.sbmm.org">http://www.sbmm.org</a> , (Ventura) call 805.641.5000
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
Feb 14	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Applications Due: Tourism Alternate, Rec. Fishing Member &amp; Alternate</i> Application packages are available at <a href="http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/news.html">http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/news.html</a> , or can be obtained by contacting Jacklyn Kelly at (805) 966-7107, ext. 371 or <a href="mailto:jacklyn.kelly@noaa.gov">jacklyn.kelly@noaa.gov</a> . Send completed applications via: email to <a href="mailto:jacklyn.kelly@noaa.gov">jacklyn.kelly@noaa.gov</a> ; fax to 805-568-1582; or mail to CINMS, 113 Harbor Way, Suite 150, Santa Barbara, CA 93109
Feb 14, 15	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Betsy Lester Roberti <i>Growing up on San Miguel Island</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Chase Palm Park Center, 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)
<b>MARCH</b>	
Mar 14, 15	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Greg Sanders, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service <i>Southern Sea Otter Translocation Status</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Chase Palm Park Center, 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)
Mar 17	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura) An agenda, directions and more information will be posted at: <a href="http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html">www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html</a>

## Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Manager's Report is produced bi-monthly by the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:  
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>.

## The National Marine Sanctuary Program

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is one of 13 marine sanctuaries in the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This program was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment or Great Lakes with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or aesthetic qualities. Visit the NMSP web site at: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

## Channel Islands National Park

To learn about Channel Islands National Park visit their web site at: <http://www.nps.gov/chis/homepage.htm>.

## GET INVOLVED AND STAY INFORMED!

To learn how to get involved in the sanctuary visit:  
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/involved.html>

Sign up for the CINMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its working groups:  
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/list.html>

## CINMS Staff

*Christopher Mobley – Sanctuary Manager*  
*Todd Jacobs – Assistant Manager*  
Shauna Bingham – Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator  
Julie Bursek – Education Coordinator, Oxnard Office  
Amy Cale – Web Developer  
Jonna Engel – Marine Reserves Outreach Specialist  
Sarah Fangman – Research Coordinator  
Laura Francis – Education Coordinator, Santa Barbara Office  
Clare Fritzsche – CINC Volunteer Administrative Assistant  
Sean Hastings – Resource Protection Coordinator  
LT Julie V. Helmers – Executive Officer  
Lorri Herr – Program Support Specialist  
Jacklyn Kelly – Sanctuary Advisory Council and Event Specialist  
Rochelle King – Administration Specialist  
Charles Lara – Deckhand  
Dani Lipski – Research Assistant  
Rocio Lozano de Knowlton – MERITO Community Liaison  
Sarah MacWilliams – Management Plan Specialist  
Michael Murray – Advisory Council and Management Plan Coordinator  
Luman Moody – Vessel Captain  
LTJG Kate Peet – Operations Officer  
Tina Reed – Education and Outreach Administrator  
Robert Schwemmer – Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator  
Natalie Senyk – Scientific Advisor  
Terrence Shinn – Vessel Captain  
Ben Waltenberger – Physical Scientist  
Rebecca Young – Database Coordinator

## CINMS Interns

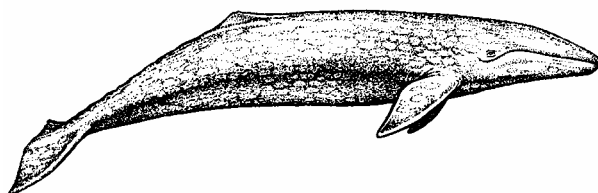
Allison Chan – Resource Protection Intern  
Daryl Austin – Education Intern

## NMSP West Coast Staff

Columbine Culberg – Ocean Etiquette Program Manager/Liaison to Aquarium of the Pacific  
Claire Johnson – West Coast Education Liaison  
Sarah Marquis – West Coast Media Coordinator

## Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Anna Chouteau – Executive Director



## - CONTACT INFORMATION -

### Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

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